

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides monoclonal antibodies specific for kringle 5 of apo(a) and hybridomas secreting such antibodies. The invention also relates to assay methods for directly measuring concentrations of lipoprotein(a) [Lp(a)] in a plasma sample. In one embodiment, the method involves the specific capture of Lp(a) from a plasma sample with a monoclonal antibody developed against kringle 5 of apo(a), which is non-cross-reactive with plasminogen and kringle 4 of apo(a). The quantity of the Lp(a) present in the sample is then measured by detecting the amount of Lp(a)-anti-kringle 5 complex that has formed in the reaction. Alternatively, the Lp(a) may be captured non-specifically and then detected with the monoclonal antibody specific for kringle 5 of apo(a). The invention also provides competitive assays using the above-mentioned kringle 5 specific monoclonal antibodies.